

### REMARKS

Claims 1-19 remain in this application, and Claims 16-19 have been added. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and review of the application as amended above in light of the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-15 as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Applicants are required to define the subject matter with a reasonable degree of particularity and distinctness to apprise the scope of the invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. See M.P.E.P. § 2173.02 at 2100-194 (emphasis in original). When determining whether the Applicants have defined the subject matter with a reasonable degree of particularity, the Examiner must at least consider the content of the application disclosure, the teachings of the prior art, and the claim interpretation that would be given by one possessing the ordinary level of skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made. Id.

The Examiner asserts that Claim 1 is indefinite and not clearly understood because Claim 1 contains 7 layers when the specification discusses a six-layer riser card. The Examiner asserts that the seven layers are the three ground layers, one power layer, two signal layers and a trace. The Applicants traverse this rejection.

The Applicants note that the Examiner appears to confuse a "trace" with a "layer." One of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that a trace is not a layer but, as defined in Claim 1, something that can be "in electrical communication with the EMI source and the device" and that can be "on a surface of . . . a signal layer."

Moreover, the specification clearly states that "[a]lthough herein referred to as a six-layer card, **the riser card may contain six or more layers.**" (p. 5, lines 16-17.) Claim 1, likewise, defines a riser card that comprises "**at least**" six layers. Specifically, Claim 1 defines a riser card that comprises "**at least** three ground layers," "**at least** one power layer" and "**at least** two signal layers." As stated in the specification, Claim 1 defines a riser card that "may contain six or more layers." Thus, that Claim 1 covers a

riser card that comprises seven layers does not render Claim 1 indefinite. As a result, the Applicants request that the Examiner remove this basis for rejection.

The Examiner asserts that Claim 1 is indefinite because it is not clear whether the riser card has a device. The Applicants traverse this rejection.

The full context of the objected to language is reproduced below:

wherein the **EMI-shielding riser card** is a flat sheet of layered material **shaped to fill an opening** between **two compartments** of a computer enclosure, thereby dividing the computer enclosure into an **EMI source compartment** containing a source of EMI and an **unshielded compartment containing a device** . . .

One of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the riser card does not have a device but rather is "shaped to fill an opening between two compartments of a computer enclosure," where one of the compartments is "an EMI source compartment" and the other compartment is "an unshielded compartment." One of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the riser card does not have a device but that the "unshielded compartment contain[s] a device." As a result, the Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not indefinite and request the Examiner to remove this basis for rejection.

The Examiner asserts that Claim 1 is indefinite because the phrase "wherein the trace is in electrical communication with the EMI source" is unclear. The Examiner asserts that it "is unclear how a trace is in electrical communication with the EMI source when the trace is shielded from the EMI source by the ground layers." The Applicants traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites that "at least one of the at least three ground layers is positioned to be interposed between the EMI source compartment and the at least two signal layers, and **to cover** the via and **substantially all of the trace** that is in electrical communication with the device in the unshielded compartment when the riser card is mounted in the computer enclosure." Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the small portion of the trace that may not be "substantially" covered by

a ground layer may be within the EMI source compartment, and that the remaining portion of the trace is substantially covered by the ground layer. For example, in one embodiment, which Claim 1 covers but is not limited to, the trace (136) is substantially covered by a ground layer (182). (Fig. 6; p. 13, line 9 to p.14, line 3.) A portion of the trace that runs through a via within the ground layer is within the EMI compartment and is in electrical communication with the EMI source but is not covered. (Id.) Thus, the Applicants submit that the objected to phrase is clear and that Claim 1 is not indefinite. As a result, the Applicants request that the Examiner remove this basis for rejection. Because Claims 2-11 depend from allowable Claim 1, the Applicants request that the Examiner also remove the rejections with respect to Claims 2-11.

The Examiner asserts that Claim 12 is indefinite because the phrase "a signal layer operabl[y] coupled to the ground layer" is not clearly understood. The Examiner asserts that when the signal layer is connected to ground, it does not carry a signal. The Applicants traverse this ground for rejection.

It appears that the Examiner improperly limits Claim 12 to a direct electrical connection between the signal and ground layer that would result in a short circuit; but, Claim 12 recites that the "signal layer [is] **operably coupled** to the ground layer." One of ordinary skill in the art would interpret the "operably coupled" phrase to cover both a signal layer that is directly connected to the ground layer and a signal layer that is indirectly connected to the ground layer, i.e., a circuit board in which the signal layer is connected to one or more intermediate elements, one of which intermediate elements is connected to the ground layer. See also Johnson Worldwide Assoc., Inc. v. Zebco Corp., 175 F.3d 985, 992 (Fed. Cir. 1999) (recognizing that the term "coupled" has been construed as a broad term that "generally describes a connection."). The signal layer may be "operably coupled" to the ground layer either physically via a non-conductive material or electrically by, for example, a resistor. In either case, the signal layer may still carry a signal and still be "operably coupled" to the ground layer. The Applicants submit that the phrase as originally drafted is clearly comprehensible and, therefore,

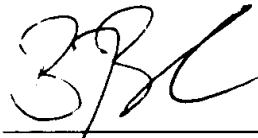
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submit that Claims 12 and Claims 13-15, which depend from Claim 12, are definite. The Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection. The Applicants have added Claims 16-19 and submit that Claims 16-19 are allowable because they depend from allowable Claim 12.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowability is solicited. To the extent it would be helpful to placing this application in condition for allowance, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel and conduct a telephonic interview.

While the Applicants believe that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0639.

Respectfully submitted,



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